Adalbert Johann Volck Collection, 1861-1883
MS 10

Finding aid prepared by Anita Carrico

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
February, 2004
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Creator	Blada, V, 1828-1912
Creator	Volck, Adalbert John, 1828-1912
Title	Adalbert Johann Volck Collection
Date [inclusive]	1861-1883
Extent	2.0 Linear feet 2 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	Adalbert Johann Volck (1828-1912) was born in Bavaria, Germany, and came to America to avoid military service. After St. Louis and Boston, he came to Baltimore and attended the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. Under the assumed name of V. Blada, he produced sketches, cartoons and caricatures about the Civil War lampooning President Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionists. Dr. Volck founded The Wednesday Club and promoted social and cultural life in the late 19th century. The collection also contains a photocopy of the preface to The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912 privately printed by George McCullough Anderson in Baltimore, Maryland in 1970.

Preferred Citation

Adalbert Johann Volck Collection, 1861-1883, Special Collections, Enoch Pratt Free Library/Maryland's State Library Resource Center.

Biographical/Historical note

Adalbert Johann Volck (1828-1912) was born in Bavaria, Germany, and came to America to avoid military service. After St. Louis and Boston, he came to Baltimore and attended the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. He built a fine dental practice and at the onset of the Civil War, many of his patients were pro-Southern. He produced volumes of drawings and etchings for “subscribers” limited to the South. Two of these were aimed at Benjamin F. Butler, commander of the Federal garrison. His Civil War sketches appeared in three series. The group “Comedians and Tragedians of the North,” is especially sharp in caricaturing and holding up to ridicule abolitionists, government officials, including President Lincoln. Volck served as a Confederate agent, assisted those who wanted to go South, smuggled medicines and other contraband. His home on Charles Street was a rendezvous and hiding place for Confederate sympathizers. At war’s end, Dr. Volck devoted more time to art activities. He participated in the founding of the Academy of Art, the Wednesday Club and the Charcoal Club.

Scope and Contents note

The bulk of the Adalbert Johann Volck Collection are individual prints produced by Dr. Volck and follow in form and content the layout in The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912, a book privately printed by George McCullough Anderson, Baltimore, Maryland, 1970.

Arrangement

I. Introductory Materials This first series contains a photocopy of the preface to The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912 which was privately printed by George McCullough Anderson in Baltimore, Maryland in 1970. Also as an introduction is a flyer that was produced for an exhibition of Volck’s work at the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution in 1979.

II. War Sketches by V. Blada, 1861-1865 This is the largest series and consists of the Civil War sketches Volck executed under the assumed name of V. Blada during the years 1861-1865.

III. Abraham Lincoln (as depicted by V. Blada) The most biting of Volck’s cartoons were of Abraham Lincoln. It is said that Volck later expressed sorrow over his treatment of Lincoln.

IV. Comedians and Tragedians of the North This series of prints is especially sharp in caricaturing and holding up to ridicule abolitionists, federal and state officials including Thomas Hicks, Governor of Maryland, General John C. Fremont. Reserved for special ire was General Benjamin F. Butler.

V. The Wednesday Club, 1877-1883 Series five is a group of sketches, of and for The Wednesday Club. Dr. Volck was a founder and very active member of this group which provided impetus to the artistic and cultural life of the city in the latter part of the 19th century. Volck illustrated theatrical programs, and the sheet music for Innes Randolph's cantata, "The Grasshopper. These are included in this series.

VI. Selections from: The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912. Here resides a photocopy of the book housed in the Maryland Department, MD XN6537 .V6 A67, including only those pictures contained in the collection housed in Special Collections.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections February, 2004

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist' Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk. December, 2014

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Accruals

"No accruals are expected."

Immediate Source of Acquisition

In a letter, dated 4 October 1950, Elizabeth C. Litsinger, Head of the Maryland Department at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, thanked Mrs. Frank H. Merrill for her brother's donation of Civil War etchings by Dr. Adalbert J. Volck. Mrs. Merrill resided at the Hotel Russell, 45 Park Avenue in New York, New York. Van Dyck MacBride of Newark, New Jersey, donated "The indexing and numbering of Volck's Confederate War Etchings" to the Enoch Pratt Free Library in August 1954.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Baltimore News-American.
- Charcoal Club.
- Wednesday Club (Baltimore, Md.).

Genre(s)

- Caricatures and cartoons
- drawings (visual works)
- etching (prints)
- political cartoons
- sketches

Personal Name(s)

- Anderson, George McCullough
- Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin) , 1818-1893
- Lincoln, Abraham , 1809-1865
- Litsinger, Elizabeth C.
- MacBride, Van Dyck

Subject(s)

- Abolitionists--Maryland--History--19th century.
- Civil War, 1861-1865

- Confederacy

Collection Inventory

Series I: Introductory Materials	Box 1	Folder 1-2
	Box	**Folder**
Preface to the book: The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912, privately printed by George McCullough Anderson, Baltimore, Maryland, 1970	1	1
Adalbert Volck: Fifth Column Artist. Flyer for the Exhibition at The National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, September 29, 1978-March 25, 1979	1	2
Series II: War Sketches by V. Blada 1861-1865	**Box** 1	**Folder** 3-29
	Box	**Folder**
Worship of the North	1	3
Battle in Baltimore – April 19, 1861	1	4
Election in Baltimore – 1862	1	5
Searching for Arms	1	6
Butler’s Prisoners at Fort St. Philip	1	7
Return of a Raiding Party from Pennsylvania	1	8

General Stuart’s Return from Pennsylvania	1	9
General Stuart’s Raid to the White House	1	10
Crossing the Potomac to Join the Southern Army	1	11
Smuggling Medicines into the South	1	12
Vicksburg Canal	1	13
Valiant Men dat Fight mit Siegel	1	14
Offering of Church Bells to be Cast into Cannon	1	15
Stone blockade off Charleston, South Carolina	1	16
Formation of Guerilla Bands	1	17
Jemison’s Jayhawkers	1	18
Tracks of the Armies	1	19
Albert Sidney Johnston Crossing the Plains	1	20
Prayer in Jackson’s Camp	1	21
Buying a Substitute in the North During the War	1	22

The Enlistment of Sickles' Brigade	1	23
Slaves Protecting Their Master from the Enemy	1	24
Cave Life in Vicksburg	1	25
Free Negroes in Hayti	1	26
Free Negroes in North	1	27
Selling Counterfeit Confederate Notes in the City of Brotherly Love	1	28
Making Clothes for Boys in the Army	1	29
Series III: Abraham Lincoln (As depicted by V. Blada)	**Box** 2	**Folder** 30-33
	Box	**Folder**
Passage Through Baltimore	2	30
Don Quixote and Sancho Panzo	1	31
Writing the Emancipation Proclamation	1	32
Lincoln and his Puppets	1	33
Series IV: Comedians and Tragedians of the North	**Box** 2	**Folder** 34-38
	Box	**Folder**

Judas – Thomas Holliday Hicks, Governor of Maryland	2	34
Simon Tappertit – General Butler (Character in Dickens' Barnaby Rudge)	2	35
Sam Tappertat – General John C. Fremont	2	36
Heroic Butler	2	37
Mephistopheles	2	38
Series V: The Wednesday Club 1877-1883	**Box** 2	**Folder** 39-49
	Box	**Folder**
History of The Wednesday Club	2	39
Drama – 1878 - A Lesson in Love	2	40
Drama – February 28, 1878 – Bombastes Furioso	2	41
Drama – March 28, 1878 – A Scrap of Paper	2	42
Drama – June 15, 1878 – Son and Stranger	2	43
Drama – April 25, 1878 – Our Boys	**Box** 2	**Folder** 44
Explanatory key to Dr. Volck's drawing "The Wednesday Club", Season 1877-78	2	45

Sketch of a farewell party for George May	2	46
Sketch of “A Musical Evening”	2	47
Miscellaneous sketch	2	48
“The Grasshopper, A Tragic Cantata by Innes Randolph”	2	49
Series VI: Selections from: The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912, Privately printed by George McCullough Anderson, Baltimore, Maryland, 1970	**Box** 2	**Folder** 50-51
	Box	**Folder**
Photocopy of the book, "The Work of Adalbert Johann Volck, 1828-1912, housed in the Maryland Department MD XN6537 .V6 A67, including only those pictures contained in the collection housed in Special Collections	2	50
“Index to Confederate War Etchings” and reproductions	2	51